



September 10, 2021

Dear parents, guardians and representatives,

COVID-19 continues to circulate in our communities. One of the best ways to continue to keep our communities and schools safe and protected is for all eligible individuals ages 12 and up to get two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine (note that receiving the vaccine is entirely **voluntary**).

Some areas in the Fraser Health region have lower vaccination coverage. To increase vaccination coverage and keep communities and schools safe, Fraser Health will be holding voluntary COVID-19 vaccination clinics at several schools for staff and students who have not yet received their first or second dose of vaccine. Anyone born in 2009 or earlier (12+) IS eligible.

Fraser Health Public Health Nurses and immunizers will be on-site at your school on the following days:

Date	School(s)
Monday, September 13	G.W. Graham Secondary
Tuesday, September 14	Sardis Secondary,
Tuesday, September 21	Chilliwack Secondary

CLINICS WILL BE HELD AT THE LUNCH HOUR AND AFTER SCHOOL.

Which vaccine will be provided at these clinics?

Our team will be providing the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, which is approved for use for people 12 and older.

Is my child required to get vaccinated against COVID-19?

No. Receiving the vaccine is entirely voluntary.

How do I consent for my child to get the vaccine?

It is recommended that parents/guardians or representatives and their children talk about consent for immunization. Together, review the following information:

- COVID-19 vaccine HealthLinkBC file: <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthlinkbc-files/covid-19-vaccines>
- BCCDC COVID-19 vaccine information for children aged 12-17 and Q&A: http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID-19_vaccine/Children_Vaccination.pdf

- *Infants Act*, mature minor consent and immunization: <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthlinkbc-files/infants-act-mature-minor-consent-and-immunization>

In British Columbia, children under the age of 19 who are able to understand the benefits and possible reactions for each vaccine, and the risk of not getting immunized, can legally consent to or refuse immunizations. There is no legal age of consent for health care in B.C. This means that your child may decide for themselves whether or not to receive a vaccine.

It is the professional and legal responsibility of health care providers, such as our Public Health Nurses, to obtain informed consent prior to immunization. Our team of Public Health Nurses will:

- Ensure that every child has time to review and ask questions about the vaccine.
- Ask each child some questions to make sure they understand the information and are ready to make a decision.

If our nurses are not sure that a child understands, or a child is not ready to make a decision, the child will not be immunized.

What can my child expect at the immunization clinic?

- Wear a mask to the clinic
- Bring your Personal Health Number if you have one. You can find your Personal Health Number on the back of your BC Services Card or CareCard.
- Wear loose-fitting clothing for easy access to the arm. The vaccine is given by injection into the muscle on your shoulder.
- Eat something that morning

Clinics will be held at lunch hour and afterschool.

If my child misses the immunization clinics, where else can they receive COVID-19 vaccination? Please visit our website to find a clinic near you: fraserhealth.ca/vax

Who can I call if I have questions about these clinics?

If you have further questions please call your local Public Health Unit at 604-702-4900 and reference this letter.

Sincerely,

Fraser Health Population and Public Health COVID-19 Response Team